

# The Greenlawn Bugle

#### The Newsletter of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

September 2021 Founded March 15, 1943 Volume 15 Issue 3

#### **Armed Forces Flags Installed at Greenlawn Memorial Park**



Representatives of National Grid, the Greenlawn Fire Department, American Legion Post 1244 and town officials gathered at the entrance to Greenlawn Memorial Park to dedicate six new flagpoles displaying the flags of our United States' six branches of service. The flagpoles were donated by National Grid as part of their New York Day of Service 2021. The flags will fly on appropriate days during the year.

After remarks from representatives of the Greenlawn Fire Department, National Grid officials and Commander Donna Boyle of Post 1244, as well as Huntington Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci and Councilman Mark Cuthbertson, the flags were raised to full height by two members of each of the three organizations.

Many improvements have been made to the Greenlawn Memorial Park in recent years since 2017 when Past Post Commander Dennis Madden and former Fire Commissioner Bill Irving teamed up to restore and improve the park's monument. The improvements have continued under the dedicated watch of Bill Irving and other volunteers. Greenlawn Memorial Park is a real gem that we can all be proud of.

#### **Boys and Girls State 2021-2022**



Some of our Boys and Girls State delegates pictured at our August meeting. Dignitaries from L-R: Councilman Ed Smyth, Judge Jerry Asher (kneeling), Councilman Mark Cuthbertson, Town Clerk Andrew Raia, Councilwoman Joan Cergol and Receiver of Taxes Jillian Guthman.

Due to the Covid pandemic, Boys State and Girls State programs were cancelled in 2020. Well, we are back! Almost, anyway. Not knowing whether we would have a program this year, we went ahead with our interviewing process. We selected some 24 candidates from five high schools in our area. We explained to the candidates that we may not have the program, or the program may be modified. Undeterred, the candidates continued with the applications process.

Finally, a decision was made to have a virtual program as virus variants and a slowdown in vaccinations increased Covid cases. This was a first for Boys/Girls State managers. Technology as well as programs would be a challenge. A virtual program would also limit the opportunities for candidates to interact with one another which is one of the most popular aspects of Boys/Girls State.

We had no need to worry as it turned out. Twenty-two of our Boys/Girls State candidates came to our August and September monthly meetings to tell us of their experiences attending the program in July. Consistent with years past, their comments were positive and enthusiastic, even allowing for some new technical issues which they found more a challenge than a problem. We thought that this spoke well for those who ran the program. They were able to adapt to the situation handed to them.

It was gratifying to have state, county, and Town of Huntington legislators, supervisors and administrators personally present certificates, letters, and proclamations of achievement, recognition, and congratulations to our Boys/Girls State candidates at our August and September meetings. Among them were: New York Assemblyman Steve Stern, Suffolk County Legislator Tom Donnelly, Suffolk County Legislator William Spencer, Huntington Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci, Huntington Town Councilman Mark Cuthbertson, Huntington Town Councilwoman Joan Cergol, Huntington Town Councilman Ed Smyth, Huntington Town Clerk Andrew Raia, Huntington Town Receiver of Taxes Jillian Guthman, Huntington High School Principal Brendan Cusack, former Superintendent South Huntington School District Dave Bennardo, Walt Whitman High School Principal Ken Costa, Walt Whitman High School Assistant Principal Corey Blair, Harborfields High School Principal Tim Russo, and Harborfields School District Superintendent Rory Manning.

New York Supreme Court Justice Jerry Asher, a member the American Legion, was also among the speakers congratulating our 2021 Boys/Girls State candidates.

The Greenlawn Post 1244 Boys/Girls State Committee will soon begin interviewing candidates for the Class of 2022. We look forward, with hope, to a more normal program.

Ed O'Shea

Boys and Girls State Co-Chairman

#### Post Service Officer - You Earned It!



Veteran benefits aren't just nice perks - they are something you earned through your service in the military. Good news - many VA benefits will be expanding in 2021 thanks to **Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020** which was enacted on January 5, 2021. Below are a few new items that you might not be aware of:

#### **Whole Life Insurance**

Beginning in 2023, the VA will be getting into the life insurance business.

The new law requires the VA to offer all *disabled veterans under age 81* a whole-life insurance policy. Whole life insurance is a life insurance policy which is guaranteed to remain in force for the insured's entire lifetime, provided required premiums are paid, or to the maturity date. This new program will be similar to Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI); however, veterans must sign up for VGLI within 16 months after leaving the service. The new insurance program will have no such time limit.

Policies will be limited to a \$40,000 payout for most veterans when the program begins

#### **Memorial Benefits**

Within two years of the bill becoming law, the VA will begin paying the costs to transport a deceased veteran's remains to state and tribal veterans' cemeteries. Currently, the VA will pay only to transport a deceased veteran's remains to a national veterans' cemetery.

In two years, the VA will begin furnishing urns for storing the cremated remains of deceased veterans. Families will have the option of receiving a free headstone or burial urn, but not both. Currently, most veterans are eligible to receive a free headstone upon their death, but not an urn.

Also, veterans who receive the free VA-issued headstone and are buried in either a state or private cemetery will be able to have their spouse's name engraved on the headstone at no cost. Currently, the family must pay to have the spouse's name engraved on a VA-issued headstone. *This will be effective for deaths going back to Oct. 1, 2019.* 

Yet another way of saying – Thank you for your service!

#### Sincerely,

#### Michelle Martin

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#### By Albert Statton III

#### The Day Before

The night before, I had traveled from Fort Drum, New York to Vermont. The weather that evening was absolutely perfect. The warm breeze gently hugged my face. I turned to face the beautiful mountains of Vermont. The sun began to settle on the horizon, blessing all in its view with a display of color. I walked around taking photographs of the scenes. I remember trying to capture the peace, beauty and promise of the moments of wonder.

The morning saw a new day, full of adventure. My wife and I had cancelled our plans to spend the week in New York City, celebrating my birthday. Monday we were to have breakfast near the Empire State Building, Tuesday near the World Trade Center then each landmark for the rest of the week. My granddaughter who had a birthday in a few weeks ahead, wanted a special Teddy Bear. We cancelled our plans and decided to spoil her with a custom made bear.

We headed out after breakfast to the Vermont Teddy Bear Factory. The sun kissed our cheeks. A gentle breeze danced over head. I was very grateful for the opportunity to bring joy to my granddaughter for her upcoming birthday.....

#### The Days After

Ever so suddenly, our Country changed. The events of 9/11 impacted so many people, so many lives, so many policies and futures.

Our Country and fellow citizens unified as one to strive to rescue or recover those lost. Over 100 of the 343 firefighters still remain lost today.

The horrific smells, ash as well as products of destruction in the air will inflict medical challenges and death on so many more in the years since and to come. I will lose many fellow firefighters to cancer. The search for the murderous mastermind and his henchmen will cover a good portion of our Earth. Justice will be swift. The "War on Terror" will also take its toll on our Armed Forces.

Our outlook and policies will be evolved to what we hope is more secure. We, I pray, will be more aware and vigilant. The clues leading up to this event were there, were missed.

I have stood amongst the remains as I knelt to mourn my Brothers. My tears flow freely, I am not ashamed, for those lost, are a part of who I am. Their legacy is why I serve to the best of my ability. The smoke, soot and ash covered faces are no longer there to warn us but seared into memories to remind us. The site has been cleared, not to hide the magnitude of the murder but to encourage us to rebuild and progress ahead.

#### **A New American Pursuing Her Dream**

This summer it became apparent to my mom and me that I needed assistance with taking care of my mom. With the aid of a home health-care agency we acquired the services of a very nice woman named Marie. Marie emigrated to the United States from Haiti in 2010, following the devastating earthquake on that island nation.

She spent the whole summer with us providing me with much needed respite from my daily chores. She would help shower my mom, go to the supermarket, and do light housekeeping jobs.

We bonded very early with Marie. She became part of our family. We shared many meals and laughter often throughout the course of our days together.

Marie left us early in September to pursue her dream of becoming a LPN. How ironic, that so many of our fellow Americans criticize our country, while an immigrant to the U.S. takes pride in her work and has ambitions to better herself and her family,

We feel truly fortunate to have become friends with Marie and to have had her in our home this past summer. As is often said, people come into our lives for a reason. Marie appeared at the perfect time for us.

**Mary Flatley** 

#### September 11, 2001

This date will forever live in the hearts, minds, and souls of so many. It is easy for us that were kept free from the horror to downplay the magnitude of the suffering of those that were trapped on the planes, those that were murdered in the buildings and those that perished doing the most noble of deeds.

It is hard to express this in a few words, but I have in my own way expressed my grief. As a firefighter here in New York, I have stood to mourn with my brothers and sisters the many who are eternally heroes in the eyes of mankind and God. It is their courage and sacrifice that will give us, who survive the courage, strength, and determination to carry on. May eternal God keep them, bless them, and protect their valiant souls. For now, and forever.

Suddenly

Out of the bright morning sun, Cold blooded killers began their suicidal run, Targeting buildings that proudly soar, Unleashing deadly thunder with a roar

As the first plane struck, I thought it an accident or bad luck, Shortly the second plane hit, It appeared to evaporate into a tiny bit

Entrapping innocent victims of each plane, Smoke and flame laid their deadly claim, Outside deadly fragments began to rain, Inside confusion and tremendous pain

Broken bits and dust were forming,
Inside our rescue heroes were toiling,
Doomed angels through broken windows
took to the air,
Soaring earthward hopelessly on the wings of
despair

The situation all too dire, The shattered buildings began to tire,9 Once massive creations of man, Suddenly destroyed by a madman's plan

Angels and heroes unselfishly rushed in, Many to perish amid the murderous din, Wounded buildings sighed then toppled to the street,

Angels of mercy entombed at their feet

Soot and ash covered faces refusing to retreat.

A monumental rescue effort refusing defeat, Written in innocent blood from the madmen's rages,

Now one of mankind's darkest pages

From every corner they did come, All to give some, As the recovery effort has begun, Hellish fire forged the many into one

Each moving through the somber pall, Tenderly searching for some that gave all Deep within each ruined buildings breast, True heroes and innocents solemnly rest.

Consecrated ground now clear, I pray for my heroes without fear, All have given their best, Well done may God have mercy and lovingly bless.

> Albert Statton III Firefighter/EMT Sfc, US Army (Ret) PO Box 169 Greenlawn, NY. 11740

#### **Assemblyman Steve Stern Honored**



10th District New York State Assemblyman Steve Stern was honored at our July monthly meeting with a plaque for his continuing support for our Boys State and Girls State program.

#### Time to Renew Your Membership

It's time to renew your American Legion membership for another year.

You — we — can make a difference. Your membership provides vital support to local veterans services, legislative lobbying efforts, and outreach in our local community.

The renewal process begins in July for the upcoming membership year. Renewal notices are sent out in July, October, January, March and May

Renewals give allow us to keep our services functioning, no matter how circumstances change. While new members help us expand our outreach and allow us to serve more people who need our help. Secure, convenient online membership renewal can be completed online at www.legion.org/renew.



All honorably discharged veterans who have served since Dec. 7, 1941, are now eligible to join The American Legion and can do so safely and easily.

Renew online at www.legion.org/renew

## **Scenes From Our September Cookout**



#### **Greenlawn Fire Department Fireman's Fair 2021**









After a whole year without New York's oldest firemen's fair, we were proud to take part once again honoring our firefighters, EMT's and medical first responder's. After the opening night parade, we manned our table at the fair, engaging with the public and just having a great time.

#### **Greenlawn Summer Nights**

On three consecutive nights this summer, the people of Greenlawn and surrounding communities enjoyed live music, outdoor dining sidewalk sales and more. It was great just getting out and greeting old friends and making new ones. It was as if the community was breathing a collective sigh of relief after many months of pandemic isolation, and social distancing.

We set up a table on the final night and as Al Statton was displaying our Operation Enduring Care fund raising items, and telling passersby about the program, Commander Boyle was entertaining the children with her "frog game" and handing out candy to the winners.

We did manage to distribute quite a few poppies and Al raised some money for **Operation Enduring Care**. It was a fun night for all and we hope that The Greenlawn Civic Association makes this an annual event.



### **A Final Salute**



**United States Army** 



Thomas D'Andrea September 19, 2021 United States Navy



\* Roland Algerio was a Past Commander of Post 1244

Their sense of duty continues to preserve our past, safeguard our present and sustain our future.

#### **Post 1244 Veterans Weekly ENewsletter**



If you have an E Mail account and are not receiving Our weekly **Veterans News** from us, we invite you to let us add you to our list. We will let you know of Post 1244 news of interest, and activities and events you may wish to take part in.

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#### **American Legion Riders**



On July 4th the Riders were asked to participate in the Eatons Neck Parade. This is a great community event for all since it is one great big water fight., and as always the Riders of Post 1244. leave a lasting impression. I have a photo of this day, One of our Riders

lost the water fight with one of the fire trucks. This same Rider also got hit with a few dozen water balloons as well as many water guns. Can you guess which Rider this is.? The only hint that I will give is that his initials are "B.B." At this time, let us all just take a few minutes and say a prayer for the 13 Heroes we recently lost in Afghanistan and their families. This is a tragedy that should never have happened..

#### Bruce Blanco

Director, Legion Riders Chapter 1244 631-745-9330 ride4mike@gmail.com



#### **Sons of The American Legion**



Sons Squadron 1244 recently received the 1st Place Veterans Rehabilitation Award from the Detachment of New York.

This well-deserved award recognizes the participation and strong presence of the Sons of The American Legion in

support of our homebound and hospitalized veterans.

Many of our Sons are members of the American Legion Riders. As such, they have visitied residents and patients at the Northport Veterans Medical Center, raised funds for charities in support of the rehabilitation of veterans and participated in our own annual Riders Turkey Run, bringing turkeys, deserts and all the fixings to local veterans.

Congratulations and thanks to all for your service to our veterans!



#### **Vice Commander's Call to Members**



It is with mixed emotions that I write this notice in our newsletter. As we are all painfully aware, this month we are commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9-11-01.

A day of special remembrance in America's history. It is rivaled only by

the attack on Pearl Harbor because of the casualties that were suffered here on American soil.

It was the day that started our 20-year war on terrorism across the globe. As with any war, the ultimate sacrifice that must be paid by some of our American service men and women is always too great. All we can do is honor them and their families in our thoughts, hearts, and prayers. We must never forget those sacrifices are what have maintained our American freedoms for generations.

As the campaign in Afghanistan comes to an end with the evacuation in progress, let us pay honor to those 13 men and women who died holding back a wall of humanity that ultimately allowed the retreat of 100,000 fellow human beings seeking to escape certain turmoil.

We celebrate the end of all conflicts, but we must stay diligent and focused on our efforts to ensure our fellow service men and women are welcomed home and are not forgotten. This is an important part of what we do as the American Legion, it may even be the most important part for some of us as I personally witnessed the emotional response of a Marine Corps veteran at the Northport memorial service honoring the 13 killed during the evacuation of Kabul.

Unfortunately, no organization including ours, can support itself without the help of its members. So, down to the business of business. As I have been entrusted with the responsibility of Membership Chairman, it is my duty to remind everyone in the Post to please renew their membership for the 2022 Year which started this past July 1st by paying your \$50 dues. You all should have received your renewal letter in the mail already, but if for some reason it was misplaced you have several options to get this done. In order of preference, they would be:

1. On-Line through the MyLegion.org website:

#### https://www.legion.org/renew

- 2. Come down to Our Post Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month and pay in person. We would love to see you again
- 3. Mail in your check or money order made out to "American Legion Post 1244". Be sure to include the membership number from your ID Card on the memo line of the check.

Checks can be mailed to: American Legion Post 1244 P.O.Box 238 Greenlawn, NY 11740

Ken Hinsch

1st Vice Commander Membership Chairman

KenHinsch@hotmail.com 631-935-3409



#### The Commander's Corner



I hope everyone had a great summer. I know I had a very busy summer and imagine everyone else did too trying to cram all of last year's special events in along with the ones for this year.

We were finally able to have a social event here at the post, a

cookout the last weekend of summer. The food was basic barbeque and I think everyone who was able to attend had a great time. A great big "thank you" to our hosts, the Knights of Columbus, for letting us use their backyard, and everything else they provided. Thanks to Ken Hinsch and Joe Pipia for manning the grill. Thanks to Steve Scinta and Fred Tuccillo for all the help they gave setting things up. Thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes, side dishes and deserts.

Please join the post for a Veterans Day ceremony at the Memorial Park on November 11th at 11:00 am. This is the only ceremony held in Huntington on Veterans Day. We

currently have a DJ and will be presenting a wreath. Check out the 6 new flag poles in the Park, one for each branch oft he military. These were donated by National Grid after a lot of work by Bill Irving and the Greenlawn Fire Department.

In addition, there will be a clean-up at the Long Swamp Cemetery before Veterans Day and a wreath will be placed there to honor the 3 Revolutionary War veterans buried there.

The post is hosting a Christmas party on December 15th. Please check out the enclosed flyer for all the details.

I hope everyone is able to attend.

As you can see, we are getting back to normal. So please renew your membership and join us at the above events.

Donna Boyle
Post Commander
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#### **Thank You Sponsors!**

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# The Greenlawn Bugle

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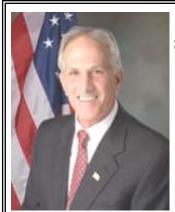


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